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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 000709

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/06/2018
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [UNGA](#) [CU](#) [BF](#)
SUBJECT: PM CANDID, UNHELPFUL ON UNGA VOTING DEMARCHE AND
CUBA

REF: STATE 105114

Classified By: Charge for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Bahamas Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham received reftel demarche from Charge late October 4. PM Ingraham took on-board USG points regarding the UN having great potential for progress if like-minded countries would agree to work together on balanced and reasonable UN resolutions and other initiatives.

[1](#)2. (C) However, PM Ingraham robustly defended specific Bahamian votes on important resolutions that had differed from USG votes in previous UNGA sessions. Ingraham began by stating that the "U.S. stands alone on the Cuban Embargo." On Middle East votes, Ingraham said The Bahamas accepted our special relationship with Israel but said there were votes on Palestinian rights that the GCOB "simply cannot support you on."

[1](#)3. (C) The PM asked that Charge emphasize to the Department that The Bahamas is proud to consider the United States as its closest friend. With a shrug, Ingraham ended by saying that he would look into the GCOB,s upcoming UN votes, bearing in mind our demarche.

[1](#)4. (C) Comment: While the PM did leave the door open, he did so reluctantly. Our sense is that if we want Bahamian support on specific UN votes, we will need a long lead-time and probably direct engagement from senior Bureau or Department officials. PM Ingraham,s unhelpful tone on UNGA voting was candid, and his vehemence on Cuba, in particular, is reflected in the attitudes of the all the relevant MFA principals. End comment
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